

GREENSTED CHURCH, ESSEX, RESTORED.



SUGGESTIONS FOR STREET-ARCHITECTURE.

PLAN AND ELEVATION OF PORTA ST. PANCRAZIO, AT ROME, ALSO CALLED THE AURELIAN AND JAMICULAN GATE.

This gate was built on the site of an older one, by Antonio de Rosai, about the middle of the seventeenth century.

ANGLE OF THE PALAZZO DELLA CONSULTA, ON THE QUIRINAL, ROME.

This palace was built for Clement XIIth, by Fuga, about the year 1730. It stands on the most elevated ground in Rome, and forms one side of the square of Monte Cavallo. It is used for different public offices.

GROUND-FLOOR WINDOW OF A PALACE ON THE LUNGO L'ARORE, AT PISA.

This palace was built by Michelangelo Buonarroti, and is also interesting as having been Lord Byron's residence during his stay in Pisa.

WOODEN CHURCH AT GREENSTED, ESSEX.

THE interest due to this little building arises from the material of which it is constructed, from its undoubted antiquity, and from the strong evidence that exists of its having been originally built as a place for the reception of the corpse of St. Edmund, which, on its return from London to Bury St. Edmund's, in the year 1013, was, as Lydgate, a monk of that monastery (St. Edmund's) informs us, conveyed in a chest or feretory.

St. Edmund began to reign in "East Anglia," A.D. 855. He was crowned the following year at Bury. He is supposed to have been killed in battle fifteen years afterwards.

Of the application of timber to the construction of sacred buildings, we have, in these early days, abundant evidence in many of the northern countries, as well as in England. "One very remarkable building of this kind is yet in existence in Norway; it is the church of Hitterdall, in Tellemark, erected about the twelfth century. It is reared of balks of fir, now hardened and blackened by time, and decorated with carvings of scales and lozenges." And with us, "There was a time," says the Venerable Bede, "when

there was not a stone church in all the land, but the custom was to build them all of wood." At York, the earliest cathedral was constructed of wood. The abbey church of Athelney, built by the great Alfred, was built only of wood. And later still we find, "previously to the foundation of the present cathedral at Salisbury, in the thirteenth century, the first business of the monks was to erect and consecrate a wooden chapel for temporary use."

It is not then to be wondered at, that in a retired spot, for a purely temporary purpose, and in a county devoid of stone, wood should have been adopted as the material for a small structure, even of a very sacred kind. The inclosing walls of this building are apparently of oak, and not of chesnut, as has been supposed by some. They are about 6 feet high, including the cill and plate, and are formed of rough half trees, averaging about 12 inches by 6 inches (the greatest length on the base line being 18 inches by 9 inches, and the least 8 inches by 6 inches). Mr. Suckling does not believe them to have been "half trees," but that "they had a portion of the centre, or heart, cut out, probably to furnish beams for the construction of the roof and cills; the outsides or slabs thus left being placed on the cills." We see no evidence of this, for the timbers were evidently left rough, and the dimensions prove them to have been, as nearly as may be, "half trees." These uprights were laid on an oak cill, 8 inches by 8 inches, and tenoned into a groove 1½-inch deep, and secured with oak pins. The cill on the south side was laid on the actual earth; that on the north side had, in two places, some rough flints, without any mortar driven under. The roof plates averaged 7 inches by 7 inches, and had a groove corresponding with the cill, into which the uprights were tenoned and pinned. The plates were also of oak, but they and the cills were very roughly hewn, in some parts being 10 inches by 10 inches, and in others 6 inches by 6 inches or 7 inches.

There were twenty-five planks or uprights on the north side, and twenty-one on the south side. The uprights in the north side were the least decayed. Those on the south side required an average of 5 inches of rotten wood to be removed, those on the north about 1 inch only, and the heights of the uprights, as now

refixed, measuring between plate and cill, are, on the north side, 4 feet 8 inches, on the south side, 4 feet 4 inches, the cills being bedded on a few courses of brickwork in cement to keep them clear of damp. The uprights were tongued together at the junction with oak strips, and a most effectual means it proved of keeping out the wet; for although the interior was plastered, there was no evidence, in any part, of wet having driven in at the feather edge junction of the uprights,—a strange contrast to many of our modern churches, where, with all the adjuncts of stone and mortar, it is found no easy matter to keep out the driving weather from the south-west.

The roof was heavy, and without any particular character; it consisted of a tie-beam, at less than 6 feet from the floor, with struts. The covering was tile. The inside of the timbers were plastered, so that internally the character and interest of the construction was lost.

The seats were of all sorts of height and form, and, for so small a church, afforded some good specimens of the "cattle pen."

The church derived light from three dormer windows of most "domestic" appearance; and an open wooden porch, without any style or beauty, gave access to the church on the south side by means of a very low door.

The restoration, as our readers are aware, has been effected under the direction of Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon.

PROPOSED NEW WORKHOUSE FOR ST. MARGARET'S PARISH.—The Commissioners for Westminster Improvements have given notice to the parochial authorities of St. Margaret, Westminster, that in six months hence they shall require a wing of the present workhouse for the new Victoria-street, and the whole of it cleared away in two years. The question has, therefore, been raised, as to where the new workhouse shall be built, as it will be necessary to set about it immediately, to have it ready for the reception of the poor by the expiration of the period named. The estimated cost of a new workhouse is 20,000*l*. This parish is governed by a close vestry, and the course which will be adopted for obtaining the best design is looked for with some interest.